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Letter dated 20 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe, issued on 19 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe issued on 19 December 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The Presidency on behalf of the European Union welcomes the 3-7 December visit to Zimbabwe by Jan Egeland, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. We echo Mr. Egeland's concern that the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is extremely serious and getting worse, with many Zimbabweans suffering from food insecurity and/or the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and with thousands still homeless six months after Operation Murambatsvina and four months after Operation Garikai, which has proven to be ineffective.

We welcome the agreements signed by United Nations agencies and the Government of Zimbabwe for food assistance and HIV/AIDS programmes, and note the exchanges between the Government of Zimbabwe and the United Nations over the need for assistance with shelter.

We join with Mr. Egeland in calling on the Government of Zimbabwe to build on this and allow the United Nations and other international donors unrestricted access to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance to those in need. We encourage African institutions and States to support this appeal to the Government of Zimbabwe.

We underline that the European Union will continue itself to provide humanitarian assistance to Zimbabweans.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia,* Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the stabilization and association process.